From: Chris Mayhall
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/3/02 12:43pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The last thing this country needs at this point in time is a prolonged randomizing conclusion to the Microsoft anti-trust case -- let's finish it with the proposed settlement as it stands.

After seeing how decisively the American public reacted to the horrific acts of September 11, do you (the DOJ) really think that the people of this nation would support Microsoft or any other company if we actually thought that their products were designed and built to our detriment? This must be a time of rebuilding, economically as well as spiritually, to show the terrorist community that they have not succeeded in their efforts. Further litigation against Microsoft would very likely lead to even more stagnation in the economic markets, and this would surely be viewed by some as a direct effect of the recent terrorist acts.

Certainly people everywhere, and in particular in the United States, have become more productive through the use of Windows, the Internet, and software applications that run on the Windows operating system. To overlook this economic trend of the past decade, is a significant oversight.

And finally, to anyone who has not developed software it is unthinkable that a manufacturer would release a new product, such as an operating system, that "didn't work well" in the marketplace -- it is an economically-driven decision with sharp competitors (such as AOL and Sun Microsystems in this case) doing all that they can to take that marketshare. The number of hours and test cases examined in order to be sure that Windows works well with all of the popular software products is staggering. Integrating software such as an internet browser with the operating system, as in this case, is done in order to raise the quality of the software. This occurs because common code that is shared between the two software applications only has to be written once, tested once, documented once, manufactured once, and sold once. If these same two applications were not integrated, all of these production facets are doubled. Eventually support costs double and the price of the software increases. It is hard to imagine how this latter approach is ultimately to the benefit of the American public.

Sincerely,

Chris Mayhall, Applied Digital Photography, LLC